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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 43 are pending. Claims 4 to 6 and 19 to 39 are canceled. Claims 9 to 18 are allowed and claims 40 to 43 are new.

1. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This claim has been canceled. Therefore, this rejection now stands moot.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Crespi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,955,218). These claims have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 102(a) as obvious over Crespi et al. Claim 6 has been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

4. The Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 9 to 18.

5. New independent claim 40 essentially includes the subject matter of canceled claims 1, 3 and 5. New independent claim 42 essentially includes the subject matter of canceled claims 1, 3 and 16. Dependent claims 3 and 5 are indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

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It is believed that claims 9 to 18 and 40 to 43 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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